

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14
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IO/SCT: A JILLSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 157361

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN 1973 REVISED EDITION OF IAEA REGULATIONS FOR SAFE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

REF: IAEA LTR OF 3/31/77 TO MISSION

1. IN RESPONSE IAEA REQUEST IN REF LETTER FOR U.S. COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES OF DETAIL IN SUBJECT REGULATIONS, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO IAEA SOONEST FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH INTERESTED USG AGENCIES (DOT, NRC, ERDA):

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A. THAT IAEA PROMULGATE COMPLETELY REPRINTED SAFETY SERIES NO. 6, TERMING IT THE QUOTE 1973 REVISED EDITION, SECOND PRINTING UNQUOTE, AND NOT THE QUOTE 1977 REVISED EDITION UNQUOTE. THIS PRINTING SHOULD INCLUDE THESE 90-DAY CHANGES PLUS THE MAY 14, 1975 QUOTE MINOR CHANGES UNQUOTE; AND

B. THAT FOREWORD TO REPRINTED EDITION SHOULD ENCOURAGE MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS, IN ADOPTING ANY CHANGES BASED ON THIS EDITION, TO ALLOW FOR OPTIONAL USE OF EITHER THE QUOTE OLD UNQUOTE VERSUS

THE QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE WARNING LABELS IN SECTION V, DURING AN AT LEAST 18-MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD. (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, A TRANSITION PERIOD HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE PANELS OF EXPERTS IN THIS SUBJECT AREA).

2. IN TRANSMITTING U.S. RECOMMENDATIONS, MISSION SHOULD URGE AGENCY TO FORMALLY PROMULGATE THESE CHANGES AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN ADDITION ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS, MISSION ALSO REQUESTED ADVISE AGENCY THAT WE NOTE POSSIBLE ERRORS AT TWO POINTS IN DOCUMENT. IN INTRODUCTORY TEXT TO PARAGRAPHS 534 (A) AND 537 (A), ONE PROVISION ALLOWS, IN CASE OF FULL LOADS, A CERTAIN RADIATION LEVEL ON ANY EXTERNAL SURFACE OF PACKAGE IN VEHICLE. SPECIFIC WORDING AS PROPOSED WOULD IMPLY THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PACKAGE. ACTUALLY, IN MOST-FULL-LOAD SHIPMENTS THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PACKAGE INVOLVED. IT WOULD BE MORE CLEAR, AND PROBABLY MORE ACCURATE, TO USE THE TERM QUOTE ANY PACKAGE UNQUOTE RATHER THAN QUOTE THE PACKAGE UNQUOTE.

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4. RE PARA. 502, WE BELIEVE U.K. AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHER COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY OPPOSE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR CONTAMINATION LEVELS UNDER PARAGRAPH 502. THIS PROPOSAL IS TO SOLVE A PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY ERDA IN SHIPMENTS OVER A PERIOD MANY YEARS. ERDA ASSISTED DOT IN IDENTIFYING AND STUDYING THIS PROBLEM AND IN DEVELOPING SOLUTION PROPOSED BY DOT TO IAEA. IAEA REGULATIONS ALLOW FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN IAEA RULES. OTHER COUNTRIES ARE FREE TO IMPOSE NATIONAL LIMITATIONS IF THEY WISH. THE ABSENCE OF THIS PROPOSED REVISION WILL MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE SPENT FUEL SHIPMENTS AND REMAIN IN LITERAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE IAEA REGULATIONS. WITH POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE INCREASED FLOW IN SPENT FUEL TRAFFIC FROM OTHER COUNTRIES INTO UNITED STATES, IT IS VITAL THAT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE BE ENACTED. WE MUST RESIST ATTEMPTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO DELETE THIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

5. MISSION REQUESTED ADVISE IF IAEA HAS PROBLEMS WITH THESE COMMENTS. VANCE

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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